United Nations S/2003/1167

Security Council

Distr.: General
11 December 2003

Original: English

Letter dated 11 December 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia addressed to the President of the Security Council

On the instruction of my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you, in your capacity as the President of the Security Council, a statement issued on 9 December 2003 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia (see annex).

I would be grateful if you could circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Revaz **Adamia**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

03-65249 (E) 111203 111203

Annex to the letter dated 11 December 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Russian]

On 9 December 2003, the Russian Federation, without preliminary consultations or coordination with the leaders of Georgia, introduced by a unilateral decision a simplified entry and departure procedure for residents of the Autonomous Republic of Adjaria.

According to official information from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, this action is motivated by the desire to gradually relax the visa regime between the two States and by the humanitarian aspects of this problem, which is absolutely incomprehensible for the Georgian side.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia states that the leaders of Georgia at one time understood the decision by the Russian Federation to introduce the visa regime between the two States, and this was not viewed by Georgia as interference in the internal affairs of the State. Nevertheless, the Georgian side has always opposed the visa regime and considered that it creates additional problems both in relations between the two States and for their nationals.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia considers that the implementation of the simplified visa regime with one of Georgia's regions — the Autonomous Republic of Adjaria — without preliminary agreement with the leaders of Georgia is a blatant violation of international law and the political ethics of relations between sovereign States, which not only is not in keeping with, but radically contradicts the repeatedly stated policy of the senior leaders of the Russian Federation with regard to Georgia, which entails good-neighbourly, equitable and friendly relations between the neighbouring States.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia issues a strong protest in connection with the unilateral action by the leaders of the Russian Federation and is forced to consider this act as blatant infringement of Georgia's sovereignty.

Tbilisi,
9 December 2003